

WORCESTER NORTON SHOOTING CLUB

GUN TYPES

Semi-automatic rifles.

Since the Hungerford event the only type of semi-auto (self loading) rifle allowed in th UK is .22 rimfire calibre.

The Ruger 10/22 is the most used model. As standard it's a fairly basic, but quite efficient gun. There's a whole host of add ons and replacement parts for it, all designed to improve accuracy and handling - the only limit to modifications is the depth of your pocket!.



The illustration shows a standard 10/22 and there are several of these in our armoury, fitted with a variety of sighting systems.

Bolt action rifles, small bore.

Bolt action .22 rifles are the usual choice of the precision shooter. They are inherently more accurate than semi-autos and are available in both single shot and magazine fed format. Again there is a good range available in our armoury, with a variety of sighting systems.



Gallery (underlever) rifles.

Since the pistol ban gallery rifle shooting has grown considerably, many of the old pistol competition courses of fire having now been adapted to be shot with these. Calibre choice is

very wide but the most popular is probably the .38/.357 magnum (these rounds are both the same calibre, daft though it sounds, the .357 magnum being the more powerful). In our armoury we have a good range - .38/.357 magnums, .44 magnums and a .22 rimfire. All are magazine fed, the magazine being the tube beneath the barrel.



Historic and military rifles.



Lee Enfield

Lovers of things from the past are catered for by us having in our armoury two rifles from the time of the World Wars. A .303 Lee Enfield and a Mauser now chambered for the 7.62mm round. Both are bolt action magazine fed, the Enfield with a detachable magazine whilst the Mauser has a fixed magazine. These old guns are a

delight to shoot and using them lets you experience what the soldiers of all those years ago experienced (the recoil!).



Mauser

We also have a Colt AR15 rifle, chambered for .223 (5.56mm) rounds. This rifle was designed to be sem-automatic (self loading) but to comply with UK law this feature has to be disabled and manual operation of the cocking mechanism is required after each shot.



AR15

Other full bore rifles.

There are rifles in .308/7.62mm available too, if you want to give them a try. Bear in mind though that, like the rifles above, they're really designed for longer range shooting than the 50 metre



maximum we have at the club. Hopefully the currently closed military range will reopen for civilian use in the near future and these fine rifles, and their shooters, can be "tested" over longer distances.



Handguns.

With the exception of historic pistols (used at very few venues and with stringent storage and use requirements to obtain the necessary licence), the only cartridge firing handguns that may be legally used in the UK are Long Barrel revolvers (LBR's). These have extended barrels and a fixed brace extending rearwards from the grip to meet the minimum length requirement set out in firearms law. The idea behind this is to make these pistols virtually impossible (for the bad guys) to carry concealed. Calibres range from .22 rimfire up to .45. Prices are high too - one of these revolvers will set you back around £600 new. We have a LBR in our armoury if you want to try pistol shooting, chambered in .38/.357 magnum.



Black powder handguns.

The other exception to the handgun ban is black powder models, revolvers being by far the most popular. There's a good range on the market and prices are reasonable - under £200 new and a lot less secondhand. A word of caution though if you consider buying one of these for competition use. Some models available feature modern style adjustable sights and these are not allowed at some events. Stay with the spirit of the originals - fixed (and fairly crude!) sights. There are no black powder pistols (or rifles for that matter) in the club armoury - cleaning them properly after use (absolutely essential) just isn't possible in the time available. However, many members are quite happy to demonstrate what BP shooting is all about and let you have a try.



Remington pattern

Colt pattern

There's a strong following for black powder long arms (muskets and rifles) at the club too. Again, no club guns, but the competition on the second Sunday (morning) of each month provides you with a chance to see them in action and find out more about this interesting aspect of our sport.



Baker rifle (as seen in the TV series "Sharpe")

Shotguns.

There are three basic types. Conventional (two barrels, either side by side or one under the other), pump action and semi-automatic (self loading).

The conventional patterns are used primarily for game and clay pigeon shooting.

Pump actions and semi-automatics are, in our (target) environment, used mainly for Practical Shotgun competitions. Standard pump guns and semi's held on a Shotgun Certificate are restricted, by law, to a maximum loaded capacity of three rounds (two in the magazine, one in the chamber). People shooting Practical Shotgun events modify their guns by fitting extended magazines, bringing capacity up to ten rounds and more. Guns modified in this way are classed as Section 1 firearms and a Firearms Certificate is required to own one.

As well as Practical Shotgun there are also what are known as 'slug matches', where solid slugs are fired through shotguns at both paper targets and steel plates. Slug ammunition requires a Firearms Certificate to purchase.

We have in the armoury over and under shotguns and pump action guns, all in 12 gauge. No semi-automatics.

